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 FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
 TO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE 8781
 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE 7791
 RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5122
 INFO RUEHAL/AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA 1577
 RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0675
 RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0448
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 8908
 RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 3628
 RUQMKM/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 6528
 RUQMKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 4908
 RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7477
 RUHFHR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 7310
 RUQMZN/USMISSION SINAI 4180
 RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7796
 RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC
 BT
 UNCLAS CAIRO 08765

State Dept. review completed

RJK
 file: HAAS
 HAC

TEL AVIV/JERUSALEM PLEASE PASS CODEL WHITE

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US, OREP, ASEC

SUBJECT: CODEL WHITE TO PRESS: MUBARAK REAFFIRMS PEACE
POLICY

1. MAIN STORY ON ALL CAIRO FRONT PAGES ON APRIL 11 WAS PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S APRIL 10 MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEADED BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD C. WHITE (DEMOCRAT-TEXAS) AND TEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES. UNDER A BOLD RED BANNER HEADLINE, GUMHURIYA QUOTED MUBARAK AS TELLING CODEL: "NO CHANGE IN EGYPT'S POLICY". AHRAH AND AKHBAR CARRIED SIMILAR HEADLINES AND ALL THREE PAPERS FRONT-PAGED A PHOTOGRAPH OF MUBARAK'S MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION.

2. THE COVERAGE OF THE CODEL'S MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT COMMENTS TO THE PRESS WAS SIMILAR IN ALL THREE DAILIES. MUBARAK WAS QUOTED AS AFFIRMING TO THE CODEL THAT "...EGYPT'S POLICY WILL NOT CHANGE AFTER APRIL 25 AND THAT EGYPT WILL CONTINUE THE PEACE PROCESS WHICH IT STARTED WITH THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS". GUMHURIYA STRESSES THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENT THAT THERE WILL BE "...NO SURPRISING CHANGES" IN EGYPT'S POLICIES.

3. DRAWING EXTENSIVELY FROM A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AFTER THE MEETING, ALL PAPERS QUOTE REPRESENTATIVE WHITE AS EXPRESSING "...THE DELEGATION'S CONFIDENCE IN EGYPT'S RESOLVE TO CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF PEACE".

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HE IS QUOTED AS TELLING REPORTERS THAT MUBARAK IS HELD IN GREAT ESTEEM IN THE U.S. WHICH "...KNOWS HE WILL CONTINUE THE PEACE PROCESS". ASKED WHETHER BALANCED U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL HELP AVERT THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE WARS, REPRESENTATIVE WHITE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE PEACE PROCESS IS GOING AHEAD, SO THERE IS NO NEED TO SPEAK ABOUT WAR.

4. ALL PAPERS ALSO NOTE THAT REPRESENTATIVE WHITE WAS ASKED IF ANY LIMITATIONS HAD BEEN SET REGARDING EGYPTIAN USE OF AMERICAN WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF REPORTS THAT EGYPT WANTS TO ASSIST THE GULF STATES. IN RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, REPRESENTATIVE WHITE REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT WORRIED IN THIS REGARD AS SUCH MATTERS ARE COVERED BY APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. IN RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR INQUIRY, THE CONGRESSMAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE U.S. IS PROVIDING EGYPT WITH WEAPONS FOR ITS SELF-DEFENSE. THE U.S. IS SURE THAT THESE WEAPONS WILL BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, HE SAID, ADDING THAT EGYPT IS NOT A COUNTRY SEEKING ADVENTURES -- ONLY TO PROTECT ITS FREEDOM AND ITS FRONTIERS.

5. CODEL WHITE'S MEETING AND PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON THE APRIL 10 EVENING NEWS BROADCASTS OF CAIRO TV. NO DETAILED COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO CODEL'S MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER ABU GHAZALA. ATHERTON
END OF MESSAGE

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